

A 4.4:113/rev.

Issued May 29, 1908.

United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY—Circular 113 (Revised).

A. D. MELVIN, Chief of Bureau.

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CLASSIFICATION FOR AMERICAN CARRIAGE HORSES.

U. S. DEPOSITORY

By GEORGE M. ROMMEL,
Animal Husbandman.

The movement started in 1907 by the Bureau of Animal Industry in cooperation with the American Association of Trotting Horse Breeders to provide a uniform system of classification for American carriage horses at the State fairs has met with a very cordial reception. As announced in the Bureau's original circular (No. 113) on this subject, the State Fair in Iowa and the Blue Grass Fair in Kentucky started a similar movement in 1907 on their own initiative. In addition, the Kansas State Fair, held at Hutchinson, and the Interstate Fair, held at Kansas City, adopted the Department's classification complete, and exhibits were made at the 1907 fairs. A partial classification was adopted by the Kentucky State Fair, held at Louisville. The Department followed the exhibits closely at all of these fairs, and a Department representative acted as judge of the American carriage classes at the Blue Grass Fair at Lexington and at the Kansas State Fair. The character of the exhibits, while not entirely as satisfactory as could be desired in all cases, was as good as could be expected, and there is every reason to be pleased at the showing made.

The Department's movement was started too late in 1907 to have the classification very generally adopted for fairs held in that year, but work was begun early to have it adopted for the 1908 fairs. Eleven State fairs have provided the classification for 1908, either as a whole or in part, but in all cases the specifications are as recommended and given below, with one or two exceptions, where the premium lists were acted upon before certain revisions were received and last year's classification was adopted. The Blue Grass Fair has retained the same specifications and classifications as last year, on account of a special system of showing in vogue. However, the type desired there is the same as provided in the Department classification, and, although the Department feels that uniformity in specifications is desirable, breeders should find no serious confusion in showing horses entered at other fairs at the Blue Grass Fair as well. The latter fair is, therefore, included in the list below for the information of breeders.

Considerable interest has also been shown by county and district fairs.

As already announced, the Department's classification is the result of a cooperative arrangement between the Bureau of Animal Industry and the American Association of Trotting Horse Breeders, and is the work of the committee on heavy harness horses of the association. The committee is organized to represent the Department of Agriculture, the American Trotting Register Association, the American Saddle Horse Breeders' Association, and the American Morgan Register Association. The Animal Husbandman of the Bureau is chairman of the committee, the other members being Mr. Maxwell Evarts, New York, N. Y., a member of the American Morgan Register Association; Gen. John B. Castleman, Louisville, Ky., president of the American Saddle Horse Breeders' Association; Mr. A. T. Cole, Wheaton, Ill., a prominent breeder of Morgan horses of carriage type; Prof. Charles F. Curtiss, director of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, Ames, Iowa, and a member of the horse purchasing board of this Department; and Mr. H. K. Devereux, Cleveland, Ohio, a well-known trotting-horse man and secretary of the American Association of Trotting Horse Breeders.

The State fairs which have adopted the classification, with dates chronologically arranged and names and addresses of secretaries, are as follows:

Iowa State Fair, J. C. Simpson, secretary, Des Moines, August 20-28, 1908.

Minnesota State Fair, C. N. Cosgrove, secretary, Hamline, August 31-September 5, 1908.

Ohio State Fair, T. L. Calvert, secretary, Columbus, August 31-September 5, 1908.

Michigan State Fair, I. H. Butterfield, secretary, Detroit, September 3-11, 1908.

Indiana State Fair, Charles Downing, secretary, Indianapolis, September 7-11, 1908.

Wisconsin State Fair, John M. True, secretary, Madison; fair to be held at Milwaukee, September 7-11, 1908.

Kansas State Fair, A. L. Sponsler, secretary, Hutchinson, September 14-19, 1908.

Tennessee State Fair, J. W. Russwurm, secretary, Nashville, September 21-26, 1908.

Illinois State Fair, J. K. Dickirson, secretary, Springfield, September 25-October 2, 1908.

Tri-State Fair, R. M. Williams, general manager, Memphis, Tenn., September 28-October 7, 1908.

Missouri State Fair, John T. Stinson, secretary, Sedalia, October 3-9, 1908.

The Blue Grass Fair will be held at Lexington, Ky., August 10-15, 1908. Mr. Jouett Shouse, Lexington, is the secretary.

The widespread adoption of this movement is of the greatest importance to farmers and breeders who own horses suitable to get American carriage horses, for the reasons that the fairs are in very close touch with farmers, the farmers are the breeders of most of the carriage horses sold on the American markets, and the value of the American horse for carriage purposes is rarely appreciated by the farmers who breed them.

Hundreds of horses are sold annually by farmers at really insignificant prices which after some months of finishing and handling are sold as carriage horses at prices up into the thousands. Furthermore, there is a continual sale of stallions to supply this trade. These horses are usually of only moderate value as speed producers, but are of excellent carriage type. If kept entire and properly mated they could be of inestimable value as foundation sires of the American carriage horse, but as a rule they are castrated and lost so far as breeding value is concerned. With the powerful educational influence of the fairs and stock shows thrown into the solution of the carriage-horse problem, the farmer will not only be educated to appreciate the intrinsic value of the native light horse for carriage purposes, but will recognize the worth of the stallion with good conformation and quality but only moderate speed as a sire of carriage horses, and the problem of fixing the type will be one of early solution.

Horse owners are urged to study carefully the specifications of type and the conditions of showing set forth below, and to exhibit in the classes provided. By studying the descriptive matter, one can easily ascertain whether his horses come within the limits of the type and are properly bred. Before definitely deciding to exhibit, owners should obtain the premium list of the fair where they wish to show, so that they may exactly understand local conditions and requirements. Correspondence should be direct with secretaries of fairs, and not with the Department.

It is earnestly hoped that the fairs which have adopted the classification will take all possible steps to secure creditable exhibits. By direct correspondence and by press and official notices owners of suitable horses should be urged to exhibit. The Department will assist in this work as far as it can properly do so.

The classification follows:

TYPE.

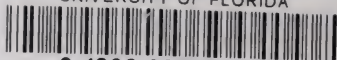
The type desired for the American carriage horse is as follows: Not under 15 hands for mature horses; smooth, compact, and symmetrical conformation; neck of good length, inclined naturally to arch; sloping shoulders; well-set legs of medium length; sloping pasterns and good feet; short, strong back; well-sprung ribs well ribbed up to coupling; smooth loins; full flanks; straight croup, with well-set tail; full, round quarters.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ENTRIES.

Classes open only to horses of American blood.

Stallions in classes 1 to 5, inclusive, must be registered either in the American Trotting Register as standard, in the American Morgan Register, or in the American Saddle Horse Register, and certificate of such registry must be shown in the ring if required.

Entries in all classes for mares must be registered either in the American Trotting Register as standard or nonstandard, in the American Morgan Register, or in the American Saddle Horse Register, and certificate of such registry must be shown in the ring if required.



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Entries as get of sire in Class 5 and produce of mare in Class 10, and entries in Class 11 must be sired by a stallion registered as above, out of mares registered as above.

No mare having any draft cross will be eligible.

Any exhibitor falsifying the breeding of entries will be barred.

Entries in all classes must be practically sound.

JUDGING.

Entries in all cases to be judged on conformation, style, action, and manners as a suitable type of carriage horse. Special attention will be given to trueness of action. Good knee and hock action are essential. Entries in all classes should trot and walk straight and true, and judges will especially avoid horses showing any tendency to pace, mix gaits, paddle in front, or sprawl behind.

The following percentages will govern judges in Classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9: General conformation and all-round suitability as a carriage type, 60 per cent; style, action, and manners, 40 per cent.

The following percentages will govern in Class 5: General conformation and all-round suitability of sire as a carriage type, 30 per cent; style, action, and manners of sire, 20 per cent; general conformation and all-round suitability of get as a carriage type, taken as a whole, 30 per cent; style, action, manners, and uniformity of type in get, 20 per cent.

The following percentages will govern in Class 10: General conformation of dam as a brood mare of the carriage type, 50 per cent; general conformation, style, action, and manners of the foal, 50 per cent.

The following percentages will govern in Class 11: General conformation of entry as a carriage type, 70 per cent; style, action, and manners, 30 per cent.

MANNER OF SHOWING.

Entries in Classes 1, 2, 6, and 7 to be shown in harness hitched to any suitable vehicle. Entries in all other classes to be shown in hand to bridle or halter.

Excessive weight in shoeing in any class is forbidden.

CLASSES.

Class 1. Stallion 4 years old or over.

Class 2. Stallion 3 years old and under 4.

Class 3. Stallion 2 years old and under 3.

Class 4. Stallion 1 year old and under 2.

Class 5. Stallion with three of his get of either sex; get need not be owned by exhibitor.

Class 6. Mare 4 years old or over.

Class 7. Mare 3 years old and under 4.

Class 8. Mare 2 years old and under 3.

Class 9. Mare 1 year old and under 2.

Class 10. Mare and foal of either sex.

Class 11. Foal under 1 year old, either sex.

Approved:

JAMES WILSON,

Secretary of Agriculture.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 12, 1908.